



USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

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NEWS RELEASE

Farm Computer Usage
August 16, 2005

North Dakota Farm Internet Access Increases

North Dakota

A total of 58 percent of North Dakota farms now have Internet access, compared with 53 percent in 2003 when Internet access was last measured. This is according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office which conducted a survey of farm and ranch operators in early June. North Dakota farms using computers for their farm business increased from 39 percent in 2003 to 41 percent in 2005. Sixty-five percent of all North Dakota farms have computer access in 2005, up from 61 percent in 2003.

Only 6 percent of North Dakota farms use the Internet to purchase agricultural inputs, down from 8 percent in 2003. Ten percent use the Internet to conduct agricultural marketing activities, equal to 2003.

Two new questions were asked in 2005, including how operators access the Internet. Dial-up was the most common method of accessing the Internet at 62 percent for North Dakota. Twenty-five percent of North Dakota farm operators indicated that they had conducted non-agricultural business via the Internet in the last 12 months.

Internet access for neighboring states has Minnesota at 56 percent; South Dakota at 55 percent; and Montana at 70 percent in 2005.

United States

A total of 51 percent of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared to 48 percent with Internet access in 2003. Fifty-eight percent of farms have access to a computer in 2005, the same level as 2003. Fifty-five percent of all U.S. farms own or lease a computer, up slightly from 54 percent in 2003. Farms using computers for their farm business increased 1 percent from 2003 to 31 percent in 2005.

In 2005, 79 percent of U.S. farms with sales and government payments of \$250,000 or more have access to a computer, 77 percent own or lease a computer, 66 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 72 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between \$100,000 and \$249,999, the figures are: 69 percent have access to a computer, 67 percent own or lease a computer, 51 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 59 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between \$10,000 and \$99,999, there were 54 percent that reported having computer access, 51 percent own or lease a computer, 33 percent use a computer for their farm business, and 46 percent have Internet access.

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**Farm Computer Usage: By Type of Farm,
Selected States/Regions and United States, 2001, 2003 and 2005**

States/Regions	Percent of Farms								
	With Computer Access			Using Computers for Farm Business			With Internet Access		
	2001	2003	2005	2001	2003	2005	2001	2003	2005
	--- Percent ---								
North Dakota	59	61	65	38	39	41	47	53	58
Minnesota	55	64	61	34	34	32	40	52	56
Montana	71	72	75	43	44	40	57	63	70
South Dakota	56	61	66	31	33	40	43	45	55
North Central ^{1/}	58	61	60	32	34	34	44	50	51
Crop Farms	58	61	62	33	34	35	44	50	53
Livestock Farms	59	61	58	32	33	33	43	49	50
West ^{2/}	67	70	69	39	41	36	54	60	62
Crop Farms	67	69	67	41	43	37	54	59	60
Livestock Farms	69	70	71	38	39	36	56	60	64
US ^{3/}	55	58	58	29	30	31	43	48	51
Crop Farms	57	60	60	31	33	33	44	49	52
Livestock Farms	55	56	57	27	27	29	42	47	50

1/ Includes IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI. 2/ Includes AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY. 3/ Excludes AK and HI.

August 16, 2005



~ Compiled and Published by ~

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